



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 995

January Session, 2017

* _____SB00995ENV_____032317_____*

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF CERTAIN LAND-BASED
MARINE AND FRESHWATER DEBRIS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) (a) No person shall engage in
2 the act of smoking on any beach located in a state park.

3 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
4 enforce the provisions of this section and issue a warning for any first
5 violation of the provisions of this section and establish a fine for any
6 second or subsequent violation of the provisions of this section.

7 (c) For purposes of this section, "smoking" means inhaling, exhaling,
8 burning, carrying or otherwise possessing any lighted cigarette, cigar,
9 pipe or any other object or device of any form that contains lighted
10 tobacco or any other smoking product.

11 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Recycle CT Foundation,
12 Inc., established pursuant to section 22a-228a of the general statutes,
13 shall undertake efforts to promote public information programs and
14 education activities intended to increase awareness of the problems
15 caused by marine debris such as beverage container caps, beverage
16 containers, cigarette butts, single-use plastic straws and single-use
17 plastic eating utensils, and to decrease the presence of marine debris in
18 the waters of the state and along the shorelines of the state. Such

19 programs and activities may include, but shall not be limited to, the
 20 posting of informational signs, in close proximity to such shorelines,
 21 that contain educational information concerning ways to decrease the
 22 production of marine debris and interactive videos available through
 23 the scanning of quick response bar codes that demonstrate the
 24 potential effects of marine debris on marine life and the marine habitat
 25 and that portray habits, behavior and actions that a person may
 26 undertake to minimize or eliminate such person's production of
 27 marine debris. Such efforts by the Recycle CT Foundation, Inc. may
 28 include, but shall not be limited to, the award of one or more grants,
 29 pursuant to section 22a-228a of the general statutes, for the purpose of
 30 designing, constructing and erecting such signs and producing such
 31 interactive videos.

32 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each commercial fishing license
 33 issued pursuant to chapter 490 of the general statutes shall contain a
 34 conspicuous statement with or printed on such license stating that any
 35 person who intentionally discards commercial fishing gear, as defined
 36 in section 26-1 of the general statutes, or other litter in the waters of the
 37 state, on public property of the state or on private property not owned
 38 by such person, shall be subject to a fine under section 22a-250 of the
 39 general statutes. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit
 40 the custom of leaving unused or abandoned commercial fishing gear in
 41 the waters of the state for the purpose of providing habitat and growth
 42 structures for marine life provided the Commissioner of Energy and
 43 Environmental Protection recognizes and approves of such custom.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2017</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*